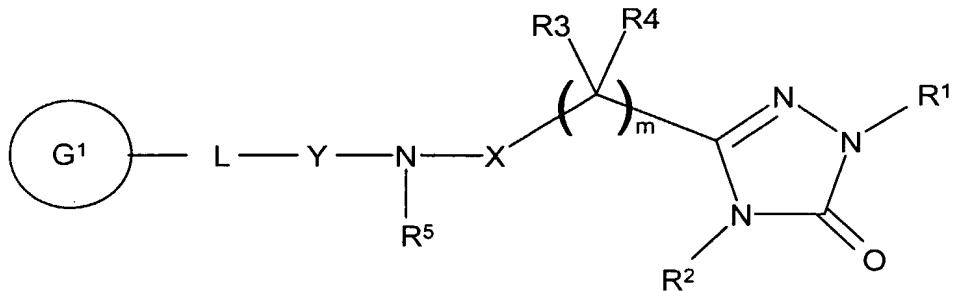


C L A I M S

1. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof



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(I)

wherein

R¹ and R² independently represent H or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by an aryl ring or an aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from O, S and N; said aromatic ring being optionally further substituted by halogen, CF₃, C1 to 4 alkyl or C1 to 4 alkoxy;

Each R³ and each R⁴ independently represents H or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by OH, C1 to 4 alkoxy, C1 to 4 alkylthio, amino, N-alkylamino or N,N-dialkylamino;

or R³ and R⁴ are bonded together so as to form a 3 to 7 membered ring; said ring optionally incorporating one heteroatom selected from O, S(O)_q and N;

20

m represents an integer 1, 2 or 3;

X represents a group S(O), S(O)₂ or C(=O);

R⁵ represents H or C1 to 6 alkyl; said alkyl being optionally further substituted by halogen,
5 OH or C1 to 6 alkoxy;

Y represents a direct bond;

or Y and R⁵ are bonded together such that the group -NR⁵Y- together represents a 4 to 7
10 membered saturated or partially unsaturated azacyclic ring; said azacyclic ring optionally
incorporating one further heteroatom selected from O, S(O)_n and N; said azacyclic ring
being optionally benzo fused; said azacyclic ring being optionally substituted by C1 to 6
alkyl, C1 to 6 alkoxy or OH;

15 L represents a direct bond;

or L represents O, S(O)_p, C(O), NR⁶, C(O)NR⁶, NR⁶C(O), C2 to 6 alkynyl, C2 to 6
alkenyl, C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 heteroalkyl or C3 to 6 heteroalkynyl; said alkyl, alkenyl or
alkynyl group being optionally further substituted by halogen, OH or C1 to 6 alkoxy;

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n, p and q independently represent an integer 0, 1 or 2;

G¹ represents a monocyclic, bicyclic, tricyclic or tetracyclic group comprising one, two,
three or four ring structures each of up to 7 ring atoms; each ring structure being
25 independently selected from cycloalkyl; cycloalkenyl; heterocycloalkyl; unsaturated
heterocycloalkyl; aryl; or an aromatic heterocyclic ring containing 1 to 3 heteroatoms
independently selected from O, S and N; with each ring structure being independently
optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen,
hydroxy, CHO, C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 alkoxy, halo-C1 to 6 alkoxy, amino, N-alkylamino,

N,N-dialkylamino, alkylsulfonamino, C2 to 6 alkanoylamino, cyano, nitro, thiol, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl, alkylaminosulfonyl, C2 to 6 alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, N-alkylamino-carbonyl, N,N-amino-carbonyl;

5 wherein any alkyl radical within any substituent may itself be optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, C1 to 6 alkoxy, halo-C1 to 6 alkoxy, amino, N-alkylamino, N,N-dialkylamino, N-alkylsulfonamino, N-C2 to 6 alkanoylamino, cyano, nitro, thiol, alkylthio, alkylsulfonyl, N-alkylaminosulfonyl, CHO, C2 to 6 alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl,
10 N-alkylaminocarbonyl, N,N-dialkylaminocarbonyl and carbamate;

and wherein any alkyl radical is a C1 to 6 alkyl radical;

15 and when G¹ is a bicyclic, tricyclic or tetracyclic group, each ring structure is independently joined to the next ring structure by a direct bond, by -O-, by C1-6 alkyl, by C1-6 haloalkyl, by C1-6 heteroalkyl, by C2-6 alkenyl, by C2-6 alkynyl, by sulfone, by CO, by NR⁷CO, by CONR⁷, by NR⁷, by S, or by C(OH), or each ring structure is fused to the next ring structure;

20 R⁶ and R⁷ independently represent H or C1 to 6 alkyl;

and when the group -NR⁵Y- represents an azacyclic ring and L represents a direct bond, the group G¹ may also be spiro fused to the azacyclic ring;

25 2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein X represents S(O)₂.
3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R¹ and R² each represent hydrogen.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R³ and R⁴ each represent hydrogen.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R⁵ represents hydrogen or C1 to 6 alkyl and Y represents a direct bond.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the group -NR⁵Y- together represents a five or six membered saturated or partially unsaturated azacyclic ring, said azacyclic ring optionally incorporating one further heteroatom selected from O, S(O)_n and N.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein L represents a direct bond, O, C2 to 6 alkynyl, C1 to 6 alkyl, C1 to 6 heteroalkyl or C3 to 6 heteroalkynyl.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein G¹ represents an optionally substituted monocyclic or bicyclic ring structure.

9. A compound according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of:
5-[({4-[(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)oxy]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)methyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
20 5-[2-({4-[(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)oxy]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)ethyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
5-[3-({4-[(5-chloropyridin-2-yl)oxy]piperidin-1-yl}sulfonyl)propyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
25 5-({[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl}sulfonyl)methyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
5-([4-[(2-methoxypyrimidin-5-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihdropyridin-1(2H)-yl)sulfonyl)methyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;
30 5-({[4-{[2-(trifluoromethyl)pyrimidin-5-yl]ethynyl}-3,6-dihdropyridin-1(2H)-yl)sulfonyl)methyl]-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

5-({[4-[(2-cyclopropylpyrimidin-5-yl)ethynyl]-3,6-dihdropyridin-1(2H)-yl]sulfonyl} methyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

5-({[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl} methyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

5 N-benzyl-1-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)methanesulfonamide;

1-(5-oxo-4,5-dihydro-1H-1,2,4-triazol-3-yl)-N-(2-phenylethyl)methanesulfonamide;

5-(2-{[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl} ethyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

5-(2-{[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]sulfonyl} ethyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

10 5-(3-{[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperidin-1-yl]sulfonyl} propyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

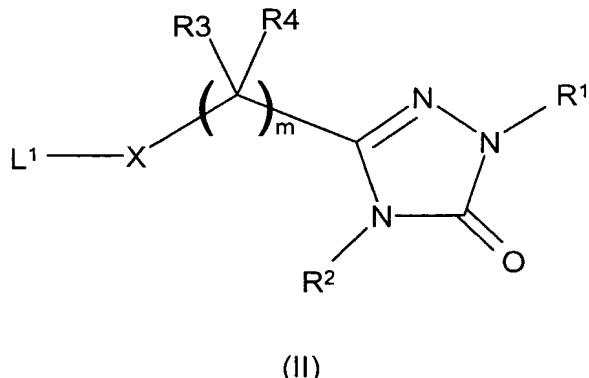
5-(3-{[4-(4-chlorophenyl)piperazin-1-yl]sulfonyl} propyl)-2,4-dihydro-3H-1,2,4-triazol-3-one;

15 and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

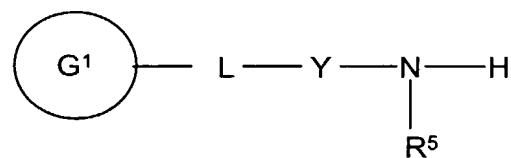
10. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as defined in claim 1 which comprises:

reaction of a compound of formula (II)

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wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, X and m are as defined in Claim 1 and L¹ represents a leaving group, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein G^1 , L , Y and R^5 are as defined in Claim 1;

5 and optionally thereafter forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

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12. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 11 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

15

13. A compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 for use in therapy.

20 14. Use of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an obstructive airways disease.

25 15. Use according to claim 14, wherein the obstructive airways disease is asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

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16. A method of treating a disease or condition mediated by MMP12 and/or MMP9 which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.

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17. A method of treating an obstructive airways disease which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.

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